

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Larry Clausen, ADDPC Executive Director

March 1, 2012, 602-542-8977

New Study Shows Support for an innovative Behavioral Program in Schools

PHOENIX – Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS), a program used in Arizona schools, has a range of support from teachers and administrators. A study on PBIS was launched after a Legislative Task Force found it to be an effective way to manage challenging behavior in schools. Other states consider it to be a best practice in reducing the use of restraints and seclusion in school settings. PBIS introduces a positive culture within schools resulting in a lowered rate of disciplinary action; improving student, parent and staff satisfaction; and increasing positive academic performance.

The Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (ADDPC) conducted the nine-month study to evaluate the success of PBIS in Arizona. Educators are impressed with the program, but say it takes on-going training for the entire staff. Both teachers and administrators pointed to the minimal funding available to help schools implement PBIS. However, they say PBIS works well, as a positive and innovative approach that should be considered by school districts.

“Implementing PBIS within schools and school districts is a major undertaking for administrators, since it involves multiple levels of teachers, support staff and all students,” said Larry Clausen, ADDPC Executive Director. “It is a shifting of culture

that, when successful, embodies new expectations that result in less time away from the school environment for students who are guided to the display of appropriate social behavior.”

In addition to evaluating the degree of implementation of PBIS across public and charter school environments, the study assessed obstacles for implementation and also developed a series of recommendations that can lead to increased use of PBIS in Arizona. Some of the recommendations include forming a leadership team within Arizona PBIS programs and working with partners in other states with successful PBIS programs.

A [summary](#) of the report and the [full report](#) can be accessed by visiting the ADDPC website <http://azgovernor.gov/DDPC/> . Printed copies can also be obtained by calling the toll-free number 1-877-665-3176.

#